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THE LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

IT is an excellent public relations' gesture to hold the Annual Locarno International Film Festival, to which come not only exhibitors from London, from France, the Scandinavian countries, but trade and press from all over Switzerland, from Sweden, from Russia, from the U.S., from Canada, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Italy, and many other countries. This Locarno Film Festival brings an influx of dollars into Locarno, a sleepy little Swiss town, which reminds one of a picture postcard.

The exhibition of films, which takes place daily, is given at the theatre of the Grand Hotel, and at the Pax Theatre, the latter a regular cinema.

The Film Festival opened on July 8th and continued for ten days. On the opening day, there was a reception which permitted the visitors to become acquainted with each other; and this was followed by the presentation of a Paramount Picture, "Sorry, Wrong Number", released in Switzerland through Star-Film. On July 9th, 20th Century-Fox of Geneva presented "Yellow Sky". A cocktail party at the Park Hotel followed; the hosts, Sefi Film, distributors for the Lux Film "Il Mulino Del Po" (Italian). Star and director made personal appearances there.

Italian pictures are presented with titles in French and German, which makes it difficult, considering the dialogue is in Italian. All the pictures presented, irrespective of their language, had superimposed titles in two languages; and after a bit of eye-gymnastics, I gave up and tried lip-reading.

On July 10th a German language film was presented at the Cinema Pax, produced by a new company which is called the Neue Deutschen Filmgesellschaft (Germany). The title of this picture is "Das Verlorene Gesicht" (Lost Face). It was in two parts, but after the first episode, your editor left, as I found it too complicated and depressing, too scientifically and emo-



Our editor interviews Vittorio De Sica at the Locarno, Switzerland, International Film Festival, while George Margolin looks on.

tionally involved. The Germans cannot forget studying themselves. Perhaps someday they will find the answer to their support of Nazi bestiality.

On the evening of this same day, J. Arthur Rank's Two Cities' trademark presented "Adam and Eve" in English language and with German and French titles. Jean Simmons who plays the lead made a personal appearance. You, of course, remember her as Ophelia, in Olivier's "Hamlet." She is a beautiful girl who looks French. Stewart Granger, Edwin Styles, Raymond Young, Helen Cherry and Beatrice Varley are featured players, and the director is Harold French.

It is the story of a gambler, who operates a very exclusive gambling establishment, losing one of his favorite men — a jockey. The latter throws a race in favor of the gambler, but, in

falling from his horse in the last jump is killed. He has a young daughter whom Granger promises to befriend, since his shady jockey friend has been writing his daughter letters and has used Granger's name and photo. The gambler adopts the orphan, who has an aversion to gambling and gamblers. Consequently the gambler must walk the straight and narrow path since he has fallen in love with his ward.

The story starts off at a fairly good pace, holds the interest and finishes happily, but we, who know Granger and Jean Simmons in much more powerful characterizations, may be excused for being disappointed since neither have a part which taxes their respective ability. Some American visitors, who were in Locarno, attached to one of the Swiss Embassies, thought the picture most enjoyable.

(Continued on Page 7)

HOW TO BEAT THE SUMMER!

(By Leo, Winner of the "Exhibitor Magazine"
Theatre Poll for "Best Product and Fairest Terms")

"I'm an old hand at competing with the hot weather and the distractions of vacation-time. As in previous years I've got a sure-fire policy: **BIG ATTRACTIONS!** And as in previous years I refuse to hold back my Big Ones. I'm delivering to my friendly M-G-M showmen the best shows to keep the folks movie-minded!"



"I'm treating the family to 'Little Women' after lunch, and tomorrow we're off to see 'The Wizard of Oz'. Nice holiday, toots!"

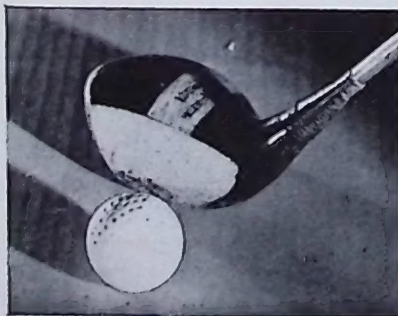


Plenty of thrills in today's ball game but more tonight at "Scene of the Crime".



After a day at the beach those M-G-M Technicolor Musicals, "Neptune's Daughter", "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" and "Barkleys of Broadway", are just right.

"What a vacation. Golf by day, movies at night! 'The Stratton Story' was swell and I hear great things about M-G-M's Technicolor Musical 'In The Good Old Summertime'."



"Hey mister, take me to see that Clark Gable man in 'Any Number Can Play'."



"I hear M-G-M's made a wonderful picture of 'Madame Bovary'. Let's watch for it."

Time to get ready for dinner and movies. Tonight they'll be thrilled by "The Great Sinner".



FRIENDLY in the summer too!

RAY PRESENTS

ADRIANA'S VILLA

*In a valley where Hadrian built
His Villa with the vision
Of a Master Plan,
The walls invite the winds to come,
And blow their cooling breath
Through cypress trees which stand
Like rows of lances,
Guarding the Ruins of Majesty,
And domes which crowned the halls
Where Hadrian walked.*

*Time has hallowed the reign of Emperor,
'Though parchments in the Hall
Of the philosophers are dust,
And lute of poesy
Is as mute to invocation
As the sculptured images of muses,
Broken from their base.*

*I hear the thoughtful tread of Hadrian,
Who with the Stoics walked
When Reason bade him give
Antinous, The Beautiful,
To Egypt's fruitful breasts
Which overflowed like liquid emerald,
Bidding the populace to cup —
Life makes strange uses
Of us all,
And e'en a slave of Bithynia,
Beloved of an Emperor,
Becomes as living sacrifice
To find the Source of Nile.*

*Where is the tread of those
Who walked beneath the dome
Of the half-vaulted Serapeum,
Designed as Inner Arch of Heaven?
Where are the friendly steps
Of those who locked their Latin Tongue
Behind their teeth,
To greet the Grace of Alexandria
With Tongue of Greece,
Watch players with bound locks,
Remove the Mask of Tragedy
To make a Comedy of Error?*

*Today, I walked,
Where in a dream
Ten sunrises ago,
Through Avenue of Cypresses,
I passed,
And heard a Roman guide,
With starry eye,
Recite the history of Hadrian
Unrolled from Scroll of Heart.*

*I stood with Hadrian
Facing the hill on which
Tivoli stands,
And heard the Christian bells,
With their persuasive tongues,
Calling to make the Sign of Cross;
To Apollo, to Mercury and Cerberus
I gave two thousand Yesterdays,
And cupped my thoughts
To drink to Bacchus —
For who am I
To chain the Hands of Time,
Loosen my hair from ribboned bands,
And weep like fair Niobe
For an Emperor lost?*

*Ionic and Corinthian columns,
Fluted their height
When entombed Pharaohs slept
Beside their gods,
And pyramids upon the sand
Had traced their image
To unfold the Inner Man.*

*Sleep Hadrian, the broken arches
Of your Villa join the sky,
Turn Roman eyes toward heights
On which to fix their gaze,
And we, from Canada,
Draw closer to the living race,
To share with you
The Sunset of the Gods,
Aware that with the Dawn
Phoebus will drive a chariot aflame,
And grapes upon the vine
Will fill their skin
With juicy sweetness,
Eager to pour their wine
Into a Loving Cup.*

—Ray Lewis
Rome; June, 1949.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This poem was written by Ray Lewis in Rome, Italy, after a visit to the Villa which Emperor Hadrian built close to two thousand years ago. The poem was translated into Italian by Raffaello Patuelli, Italian poet, who is in the office of the Italian Legation, Rome. It was published in both Italian and English, in the Italian-English edition of the Rome Observatore. The visit to Adriana's Villa, near Tivoli, was made possible through the kindness of Mario Borghi, to whom Ray Lewis is greatly indebted for the opportunity to view many historical places in Rome and the surrounding country. Mario Borghi is at present engaged in the preparation of his production of the Life of Puccini having cleared all rights for such a production, which will include operatic scenes from this famous composer's operas.

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

A TORONTO visitor who received a popular welcome was George R. Miller, owner of the Vogue Theatre, Wynyard, Sask., and president of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors Association. On a motor trip with his family, Miller also visited the Toronto home of a sister, later taking in a view of Niagara Falls before heading back to the West.

For 18 years the Saskatchewan association president was P. W. Mahon, owner of the Orpheum and Strand at Prince Albert and a partner of FPCC. Miller is the first smalltown independent exhibitor to be the president, and expects to attend the National Committee meeting in Ottawa, Oct. 12-13.

* * *

The 20th Century Downtown Theatre in central Toronto was the first to announce a midnight show in conjunction with the Civic Holiday on Aug. 1. As this was a weekend date, the exhibitors were more inclined to hold an owl show than they were for Dominion Day which fell on a Friday.

* * *

The father of Michael Kirby, the former Canadian figure-skating champion of Toronto and now of Hollywood, Frederick L. Kirby, 54, died in St. Michael's Hospital after a long illness. He had been the manager of Woolworth stores in several Canadian cities, and was a member of the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church where the requiem mass was said. One of his six brothers is Rt. Rev. Msgr. G. J. Kirby of Toronto.

Gordon Lightstone, general manager of Paramount Film Service, was among those who attended the conference in New York July 28 of all division managers of Paramount Pictures. Presiding at the meeting was A. W. Schwalberg, vice-president in charge of sales.

* * *

Manager Slaw Meretsky of the Centre Theatre, Windsor, caused a stir when he announced a midnight show Friday night for which all children under 12 years of age were to be admitted free when accompanied by parents. The program consisted of two film features and a stage show for cash prizes.

The announcement was startling but, of course, he did not expect many parents would take advantage of the offer.

* * *

"My Brother Jonathan" proved a decided hit for the summer season at the Party Community Theatre, Hamilton, being held for a fourth week.

U-I STARS APPEAR IN VANCOUVER

Dan Duryea and Anthony Curtis, stars of the new Universal picture "Johnny Stool Pigeon", were welcomed by Vancouver's Mayor Thompson when they arrived to be guests at the premier of the picture, much of which was shot in B.C. The Film opened at the Odeon-Vogue, July 27.



W. R. Frank meets the press at a luncheon, given in his honor by United Artists. L. to R.: Mr. Frank, Jackie Ross of the Digest, Charles Chaplin, Canadian Sales Manager of UA, and Jack Karr of the Toronto Daily Star.

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The King Theatre on College Street did so well with "Dente per Dente" that it was held for a second week, the accompanying picture being "The King's Jest-er". Another foreign - language feature, "Paisan", continued for a ninth week at the Towne Cinema, Toronto, after its closing had been announced.

* * *

An oilcloth contestant's badge, consisting of a large number, for the Calgary Stampede finally caught up with Mayor "Buck" McCallum of Toronto when it was mailed to the city hall here after His Worship missed a meeting with Roy Chown, scorer for the competitions for the past 21 years.

* * *

Some credit goes to the Odeon-Toronto Theatre for the win of Miss McInnes in the Miss Toronto Beauty Pageant sponsored by the Toronto Police A.A. It was at the key Rank house that the ultimate "Miss Toronto" had secured her entry blank for the parade and had become a finalist after surviving the preliminary trials on the stage of the same theatre.

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W. R. Frank Visits With Toronto Exhibitors

As a part of his 30-city itinerary to publicize "The Great Dan Patch", (UA), producer W. R. Frank visited Toronto last week to meet the press and exhibitors and talk over his picture and his plans. In the space of one day, Mr. Frank lunched with the press and radio contingent, cocktailed with exhibitors, was interviewed on station CKEY, talked harness-racing with Canadian horsemen, and generally made a big splash in the entertainment and sporting world.

Mr. Frank spoke, in the course of his remarks, on his 'cap with two visors' — his dual position as an exhibitor and a producer. He has been in exhibition in Minneapolis for many years and has, within the last 8 years, made several pictures in Hollywood, amongst which are "Syncopation", "Martin Eden", and "All That Money Can Buy" which is being re-released by RKO this September.

Mr. Frank discussed the problems of the independent producer, drawing on his own practical experience to illustrate the present plight of that most unfortunate species of business man. He stated that, not long ago, bank credit had been available for 60% of costs, second money for 20%, and only 20% of the budget was required by the producer. Today, Mr. Frank said, the banks are demanding a guarantee of the entire sum they advance and second money has disappeared entirely from sight.

Despite this gloomy situation, Mr. Frank was very definite about going ahead with at least two films in association with John Taintor Foote, with whom he made "Dan Patch". The first of these will be "Sitting Bull", a Technicolor portrayal of the saga of the American Indian's fight against the white men. The second will be "Knee Britches", a hillbilly story set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and starring Charlotte Greenwood and Will Honeycutt who were paired with such great success in "Dan Patch".

The major part of Mr. Frank's remarks dealt, of course, with "The Great Dan Patch", a horse which Mr. Frank grew up with in Minnesota and loved. He brought with him the now-famous 5-minute trailer which he has already shown in 17 cities and which was shot in 1905, showing Dan Patch in his prime and beating his own record of 1:56 at a harness-racing meet in Kentucky.

The short, which is now being used to exploit the picture on TV, will be available for all exhibitors who care to use it in Canada since 35mm prints have been made of it.

Immediately following Mr. Frank's visit, it was announced by United Artists that "The Great Dan Patch" will have its Canadian premiere at the Nelson Theatre in Ottawa in conjunction with a large harness racing meet to be held there August 27th to September 5th.

NEW ODEON G-M



DAVID GRIESDORF

GRIESDORF NEW ODEON GENERAL MANAGER

Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., head of the J. Arthur Rank interests in Canada and president of The Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited has announced the appointment of David Griesdorf as general manager of the Odeon theatre circuit. Reporting also the completion of the circuit's building program across Canada which added 25 ultra-modern theatres to the chain, Hon. Mr. Lawson said that this expansion called for an increase in senior operating personnel. The Odeon circuit proper now totals 116 theatres.

Despite the fact that he is still in hospital, although recovering rapidly, Hon. Mr. Lawson made the announcement, personally, of this new appointment.

Mr. Griesdorf, well-known film executive, whose appointment is effective August 1st, has resigned as president and general manager of International Film Distributors Ltd., which he organized in 1947, and which has distributed in Canada the product of Eagle-Lion (Hollywood) as well as other films. Previously, during Odeon's organizational period, he had been in charge of theatres in British Columbia where the circuit built up one of its most important groups of theatres.

The news of Mr. Griesdorf's appointment still leaves as a big question mark on the Canadian moving picture scene the fate of International Film Distributors. To date, no successor to Mr. Griesdorf has been appointed and the IFD executives are making no comment. However, the guesses are that, after a series of conflabs this week which include two independent distributors, there will be a change in IFD.

STARS VISIT ALBERTA

Rod Cameron, movie star, and Bill Thompson, the "Mr. Wimple" and "Old Timer" of the Fibber McGee and Molly show participated in the 75th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Macleod, Alta.



John Lock, 80 year old dean of Canadian harness racing, discusses the phenomenal record of Dan Patch, world famous pacer, with W. J. Frank, Hollywood producer of "The Great Dan Patch", a motion picture which records for posterity the amazing feats of Dan Patch. Lock, who is showing Frank photos of his own pacers, vividly recalls placing the victory wreath over the head of Dan Patch in his race here forty years ago under the auspices of the Toronto Driving Club.

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

FIDEL D. De CASTRO, of Manila, first of a number of foreign students coming to Canada to study documentary film making, has arrived in Ottawa and is now associated with the National Film Board. "This completely reverses our position of ten years ago", said Film Commissioner Ross McLean in welcoming Mr. de Castro. "In our formative years we had a large number of experienced film-makers from other lands who made films for us and trained our own people in the art. Now the Board is completely staffed by Canadians and today we are being sought out by governments, international foundations and individuals all over the world who provide their own funds for their people to come to Ottawa to be instructed in the methods of documentary film making".

The following program bringing these students to Canada is sponsored by the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO, a body which has already awarded additional fellowships for the study of film-making in Canada to two other countries, Denmark and the Netherlands. Winner of these fellowships will be attached to the National Film Board on arrival here, along with additional awards presently being considered.

This corner wishes to acknowledge the receipt of a postcard from Rome, Italy, signed by our highly esteemed editor and publisher, Ray Lewis. Back of the card carries a reproduction in color of "Rest During the Flight to Egypt", a beautiful painting by Federigo Barocci which hangs in the Vatican. Ray said she was glad to note that we were well again and back on the "Digest" correspondent job.

Joe O'Leary, formerly of Ottawa and now a citizen of Detroit, Michigan, spent several days with friends here last week. Now superintendent of Armour's Packers in the Motor City, Joe still has a big spot in his heart for show business. Before leaving Canada nearly 20 years ago, he was manager of the Imperial Theatre, one of three houses operated by the late Harry Brouse, others being the Family and the Francais. Joe paid a visit to the office of this reporter for a long chat about "the good old days of show business", followed by a jaunt through the local theatrical scene.

Ernie Warren, manager of the Elgin Dual Theatre and local supervisor for 20th Century Theatres, is back at his desk from a two-week's vacation. Accompanied by Mrs. Warren, Ernie mot-

ored through the Thousand Islands, the Muskoka Lake district, Hamilton and Toronto.

Ernie Warren, incidentally, has purchased an acre of land for a Summer residence up the Gatineau in the Province of Quebec. The property, which includes a log cabin, is situated about 14 miles from his Elgin Theatre office. He intends to renovate the building and do some landscaping, among other improvements, before moving in.

We also had a long, friendly and solicitous letter from J. M. Franklin, president of the Franklin-Hershorn Circuit, St. John, N.B. Joe wrote with considerable nostalgia of the days when he operated the Franklin Theatre on Queen street in this town, and as partner-manager of the Keith-Albee Vaudeville Theatre (now the Capitol) in the latter 20's and early 30's. We especially appreciated Joe's remarks about the "Capital Story", which, he said, was read regularly by the Franklin family. This is a promise to answer that letter just as soon as I can get back to my usual routine.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

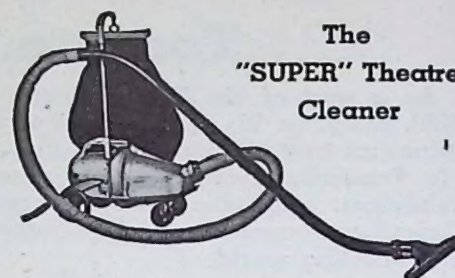
RUMORS in Vancouver Theatre circles are that big-time vaudeville will make a come back this fall to compete with the night clubs and to build up sagging business. Houses mentioned are the Famous Player Orpheum and the Odeon-Hastings Theatre.

Competition for regular movie theatres in British Columbia is the opening of the 2 drive-in theatres in the B.C. interior at Kelowna and Penticton. Both are cutting into the circuit houses, theatremen reported.

Roy Gordon, Seattle promoter, is playing three Vancouver Island points with Search for Talent stage shows at Port Alberni, Victoria, and Nanaimo. They help business, exhibitors reported.

Ernie Kirkpatrick, well known Canadian motion picture cameraman and director has joined the staff of Trans-Canada - Films here. Formerly with Shelly Films of Toronto, he is well known in Canada for his excellent work in many industrial shorts. He recently became the father of a baby girl since he returned to his home town of Vancouver.

Walter Hopp, assistant manager of the Orpheum, returned from a two week vacation spent in Hollywood . . . Dave Borland, Dominion manager, is holidaying on Vancouver Island.



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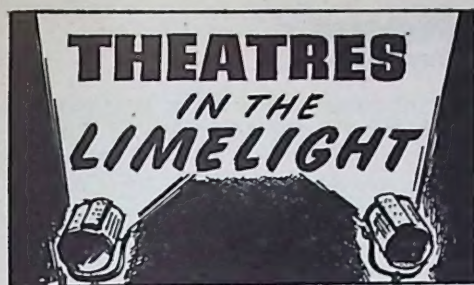
Dave Rubin is receiving the sympathy of many friends in show business over the loss of his mother, Mrs. Jacob M. Rubin, who passed on last week at the age of 79. Dave operated and managed theatres in Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton before the war. In recent years he has been operating an electrical and home furnishing business in partnership with his brothers.

Phyllis Smith, Dominion Theatre head cashier, has resigned to return to her native New Zealand . . . Allan Owensmith, assistant manager at the Strand, also resigned and off to England . . . Stan Pooley, former manager of the Strand here, now assistant manager of Pantages Theatre in Hollywood, is holidaying here and looking up his many show biz friends . . . Earl Barlow is pinch hitting for his boss, Charlie Doctor, at the Capitol who is away on vacation South of the border, as is Dellla Garland RKO cashier.

Two Vancouver skid road theatres, the State and the Star, are closed at present. Biz is on the downbeat in the East end section of town due to much un-employment here.

Local visitors were Will Harper, manager of the Paramount at Kelowna; Mike Phillet of the Loughheed Drive-in; Bill Boyd of the Boyd Drive-in at Kelowna; Archie Laurie, public relations head of the Rank Interests in Canada; and Reggie Wilson, MGM 16mm. head who was in town on his first visit since his recent appointment at Metro.

Ross Beesley, ASN cameraman, returned from a flying trip to the Yukon and reports great activity in base metal prospecting around Mayo and the famous old town of Keno. Beesley made extensive shots for newsreels and television release in the U.S.



The O'Connor Theatre, HUNTINGDON, QUE., has been leased by Mrs. Mae O'Connor to John Trow of Montreal with the option of buying the building in the near future. Trow is associated with his two brothers in both the Poster Exchange and the Quebec Cinema Booking Co. in Montreal (which buys and books 63 Quebec houses). Since the Trow brothers also have the Quebec franchise for "Photo Night", it is a foregone conclusion that the contest will become a part of the new policy. John Trow will manage the theatre himself. He also owns another theatre at Three Rivers and is interested in several others in the province.

Another note from the French press—Le Droit, Ottawa. This one concerns the inauguration of the new 250-seat theatre at CASSELMAN, ONT., managed by M. Quesnel. Those present at the opening included the mayor of the town, the council and the vicar.

The Cameo Theatre in MORRISBURG, ONT., has been sold for the second time this year. The latest proprietor is Carl Madsen of Williamsburg who purchased the theatre from James Loucks, who purchased it from Mrs. N. W. Morton.

REGINA'S first drive-in was opened Saturday, July 9, despite the fact that a 70-mile wind a week previous ripped down the screen, which was nearing completion. Damage was estimated at \$2,000 . . . The outdoor theatre covers 12 acres and accommodates 450 cars. Centralized speakers will be set up in the screen area for this year and "in-car" speakers will be installed next year . . . The theatre, on Regina's outskirts, is called the Skylark Drive-In Theatre Co., Ltd. Lee Cozma is president; Kurt Schroepfer, secretary-treasurer and advertising manager; Leo Nenson, Manager, and George Nenson, construction manager.

Drive-ins, drive-ins everywhere—the next Ochs addition will be the Inter-city Drive-In situated just outside the PORT ARTHUR, ONT., city limits. Construction was started on the 500-car theatre on July 16th.

FILM FESTIVAL

(Continued from Page 1)

At 10 a.m. the following morning, the Sydney Box-Gainsborough production of Somerset Maugham's "Quartet" was presented. It was such a pity to waste this excellent picture at the morning session, although the Cinema Pax was crowded. At the outdoor theatre of the Grand Hotel, there are seating arrangements for at least three thousand, and, while the upper terrace is reserved for guests, the lower section, where there must be at least two thousand or more seats, is open to the public at special admission prices.

There were several German films presented during the Festival, and the German producer-director, Pabst, whom I am told is very well-known, was present with several representatives from Germany.

French pictures were well represented, but there was one picture from Svensk Filmindustri of Sweden, in the Swedish language, which was photographed to perfection. I have never seen better photography. The Swedish title is "Tösen Fran Stormyrtorpet" (La fille du Grand-Maraais). The story material would cause anyone in the United States, or in Canada, to be arrested at least ten times for each of its episodes.

We think, in America, that we know what to put into a sexy picture. We define certain pictures in America as sexy but, brothers and sisters, you should see this Swedish picture which has missed nothing in its presentation of the facts of life from abortion to Lesbianism, from prostitution to a scene where a young girl is undressed and ready to go to bed with our drunken hero of this story, when suddenly he becomes violent and the colored owner of the place throws him out.

Here is an example of an equality of race, creed and colour — an equality of the sexes, with the single standard — a few bad parents thrown in for some excuse for prostitution, a little abortion thrown in to create sympathy for a girl who stole out of the window of a Girls Reform School to make love with the gardener who gave her cigarettes and lip-sticks which she generously shared with her other girl inmates, and who later dies, after an abortion.

The Realists would argue that this picture is true to life, and I cannot disagree. But if such a picture is educational, a morale-builder or entertainment, then I am in deep water, and I am drowning. In less polite language, "I am sunk."

The Swedish picture was well-acted and very well-directed, but give me the birds and the bees, particularly the birds like "Bill And Co" which was presented the following morning at the Cinema Pax. This is the Dean Ries-

BELLEVUE THEATRE DAMAGED BY FIRE

Damage estimated at between \$3,000 and \$4,000 was done Sunday, July 3, when fire swept the empty Bellevue theatre, Bellevue, Alta. The theatre, owned by Turnell Bros., was believed partly covered by insurance. The fire was reported to have started in the basement. Greater part of the damage was said to have been done by water and holes made by firemen who sought the cause of the blaze.

COL. BUYS INTO DU-ART LAB.

Columbia Pictures has acquired a substantial interest in Du-Art Film Laboratories, Inc., according to a statement made yesterday by Al Young, president of Du-Art. Under the terms of the agreement, Columbia will assign all its printing to Du-Art with the exception of that done by the company itself at the coast.

Leo Jaffe, Columbia executive, has been elected to the board of directors of Du-Art.

COPLAN FORMS TV CO.

Coplan Film and Television Co. has been formed in London, Eng., by Dave Coplan, former managing director for United Artists, to engage in distribution of British-made video shorts to TV stations in the United States. Shorts are being made by Parthian Productions, from financing supplied by the government's National film Finance Corp.

ner production, released by Republic.

"That Lady In Ermine" with Betty Grable and Douglas Fairbanks (producer, Ernest Lubitsch,) and "Silent Dust", an English film, were presented on the 14th. "The Big Cat" (British), "He Walked By Night", and "Enchantment" were shown; and, each day, some excellent documentaries and scientific films, which the foreign language producers make to perfection.

In all, there were, excluding documentaries, three features from Germany, one produced in Austria, one from Belgium, seven from the United States, four from France, three from England, and two from Italy — "Il Mulino del Po" and "Lardi Di Bicicletta", the bicycle thief gem of De Sica's.

From Sweden, there were two — the one to which I have already referred and "Hamnstad."

The President of the Jury which will make the Awards to the selected pictures is Hugo Mauerhofer, secretary of the Swiss Chamber Cinema, and the members of the board are: Dr. Paul J. Block, Roman Brodmann, Jean Nicollier, Emile Gret, Dott. Guido Calgari, and Antonio Chiattoni.

—THE EDITOR

Screen Reviews

By STEPHEN VISE

"THE GIRL FROM JONES BEACH" (Warner Bros.). A refreshing summer comedy starring Ronald Reagan (a commercial artist in search of a perfect model), Virginia Mayo (an intellectual school teacher caught wearing a bathing suit), and Eddie Bracken (a harassed talent scout down to his last cent and idea).

The story and gags are old stuff as might be guessed from the heading, but most of them go over because of the three principals involved. Reagan and Bracken keep up the comedy end with relish, and Miss Mayo supplies what most males look for when they spy a blond on a beach. Incidentally, the funniest scene is a beach romance carried on by a stunted Brooklyn couple who are obviously watched by lovers Reagan and Mayo.

Most people are going to enjoy this movie because it's simple, harmless, and pleasantly breezy. And why not? Without getting sunburn you can enjoy the best features of a beach — and in an air conditioned theatre, no doubt!

"CHAMPION" (Screen Plays Inc. - U.A.). A brilliant screen adaptation of Ring Lardner's condemning portrait of a boxer and his world.

Irrespective of the fact that it is the best fight picture ever filmed, the "Champion" is remarkable for its story, characterization, moral indignation, and superbly economical production. If intelligently publicized it should entice audiences who are not ordinarily inclined to enjoy movies on pugilism.

The screen script improves upon Lardner's somewhat caricatured "champ" by humanizing him: his love life is built up, and his most vicious act (where he pastes his mother on the kisser) is wisely left out. And like the original it subtly rebukes the American public for making bums into heroes because they are good athletes.

This is the first picture for Stanley Kramer's newly formed Screen Plays Inc. It is also the beginning of a promising career for a once-underrated actor, Kirk Douglas, and a gifted young director, Mark Robson.

"AFRICA SCREAMS" (Nassour-U.A.). A hilarious bit of imbecility for those who like Abbott and Costello.

This time our hair-brained heroes worm their way into a safari that is supposedly in search of an organ-ulating but actually on the lookout for diamonds. As jungle movies go, this one has all Tarzan pictures and African travelogues beat a mile for in it appears Frank Buck, Clyde Beatty (with his lion act), heavyweights Max and Buddy Baer, mauling each other like a couple of brown bears, comedians Joe Besser and Shemp Howard, and blond Hilary Brooke, who sponsors the safari. Most of the fun, however, is concentrated on the pathetic little fat man and his skinny partner who connives to get him into the fantastic sort of difficulties which only a Hollywood jungle can offer.

If there are any "screamers" in the audience, they will include children and adults of a rather dubious I.Q.

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

Visitors in Saint John recently have been "Bill" Staples of the Queen Theatre, St. Stephen, N.B., and J. McCalvy of the Capitol, Tracadie, N.B.

* * *

Bill Mitchael, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Saint John, has returned from a visit to relatives in Kingston and Chicago. The Capitol recently showed "Good-bye Mr. Chips" to one of the best attendances for many months in the summer season. The Paramount and Strand Theatres also showed re-issues to good crowds in the same week.

* * *

Gladly heard of the improvement of W. Monte Chase, operator of the Paramount Theatre, and of Leslie Kerr of Eagle-Lion, both of whom have been ill in the General Hospital, Saint John.

* * *

The destruction of the Capitol Theatre at Kentville, N.S., has resulted in a claim for damages being entered in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia against the Irving Oil Company. It is claimed that, in delivering fuel to the theatre, oil was allowed to spill on the basement of the theatre where it ignited and caused the fire which destroyed the building and its contents.

* * *

On holidays are Helen Selick of M.G.M., visiting relatives in New York; Peggy Woodruss of Paramount; Frank Murphy of International; Miss K. Ryan of International, who is visiting in Montreal; Miss Anne Rose of Paramount, at P.E.I.; and Tom Corbett, booker at 20th Century Fox, who is on a motor trip.

* * *

Harry Cohen, manager at Saint John for RKO, has returned from the Sales meeting held at Toronto and states that the line up of RKO Pictures is wonderful mentioning particularly "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" as outstanding. The local manager and staff are being congratulated upon winning second place in the Ned Depinet Drive and running off with a goodly amount of the cash prizes. They won three firsts in sales and three seconds.

* * *

Friends in the Maritimes were delighted to welcome Tom Daley of Toronto, a Saint John man who was at Halifax acting as judge in the Beauty Contest, one of the features of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Halifax. Miss Fredericton of New Brunswick's Capital City came third in the contest.

A DELEGATION from theatre owners in the City of Saint John interviewed the City's Executive Director, E. Royden Colter, regarding reduction of taxes levied by Saint John upon theatres. Mr. Colter was given information regarding the business of the theatres and the large number of employees necessary for maintenance. When this information is complete it is expected that the delegation will appear before the City Council. Included in the delegation were Messrs. J. M. Franklin, Mitchael Franklin, Sam Babb of the Mayfair, F. Gordon Spencer of the F. G. Spencer Company (The Strand Theatre) and Nicholas Vassis and A. Demerson of the Empire Theatre.

* * *

The Community Theatre at Yarmouth, N.S. (Franklin - Herschorn Chain) is being re-decorated inside and out. The summer visitors who throng Yarmouth are greatly increasing audiences at the theatres. Sidney Weyman is manager at the Community.

* * *

Maurice Elman, manager at Saint John for Selznick-Alliance, played ball while in Prince Edward Island and suffered an injury to the tendons of his leg which require several weeks to heal. Mr. Elman is able to be at the local office but is not doing any jumping around at present.

* * *

Miss Winifred Gorham has joined the staff of M.G.M. in Saint John . . . Miss Lois Freeze has taken the place of Miss Eileen Dunfield at Columbia . . . Miss Frances McMillan is now with Paramount replacing Mrs. Le Doux who was recently married.

* * *

A distinguished visitor to Saint John will be Hon. Abraham Harmon, Consul-General for Canada from Israel who will be present at the fifth annual Maritime conference of the Zionist organization. Mitchael Bernstein of the B. & L. Theatres is general chairman and chairman of the programme committee; J. Lieberman (B. & L. Theatres) is on the advisory Council. About 200 delegates are expected to be present and Hon. Mr. Harmon will be the speaker at a luncheon at the Admiral Beatty Hotel. A religious service at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue will open the meetings which will be held at the Admiral Beatty Hotel. Other speakers will be Edward E. Gelber, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of Canada, and Rabbi Rose executive director of Young Judea of Canada. Much of the discussion will concern the plight of displaced persons of Europe and means for their rehabilitation.

Roving In Italy With The Editor



Upper Left: Adriana's Villa, near Tivoli. These ruins inspired the poem, *Adriana's Villa*, written by Ray Lewis, to be found in this issue of the Digest on Page 3.

Lower Left: Ray Lewis and Natalie Fine in Naples, with Mount Vesuvius in background. Bird's eye view of City.

Extremes Right: In front of the Ruins of the Greek Theatre at Adriana's Villa, Ray Lewis looks toward the Hall of the Philosophers. (Photographed by Dr. Marios Borghi, producer of the *Life of Puccini*.)

Trans-Canada Showings

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

DOWNTOWN

"Hellfire" (Rep.), and "Hold That Baby" (Mono.).

EGLINTON-UNIVERSITY

"Fountainhead" (WB), with Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal.

IMPERIAL

"Lust For Gold" (Col.), with Glen Ford and Ida Lupino.

LOEW'S

"Neptune's Daughter" (MGM), Technicolor, with Esther Williams and Red Skelton.

ODEIN-CARLTON

Second week. "Home Of The Brave" (UA).

SHEA'S

"The Great Gatsby" (Para.), with Alan Ladd and Betty Field.

TOWNE CINEMA

"The History of Mr. Polly" (EL), with John Mills.

UPTOWN

"Johnny Stool Pigeon" (UI), with Dan Duryea and Shelley Winters.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"The Pride Of The Yankees" (RKO), with Gary Cooper and Teresa Wright.

IMPERIAL

"Homicide" (WB), and "Night Unto Night" (WB).

LOEW'S

"Edward, My Son" (MGM), with Spencer Tracy and Deborah Kerr.

ORPHEUM

Third week. "Africa Screams" (UA), with Abbott and Costello.

PALACE

"The Beautiful Blond From Bashful Bend" (20th-Fox), with Betty Grable and Rudy Vallee.

PRINCESS

Second week. "Undercover Man" (Col.), with Glen Ford and Nina Foch.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Goodbye Mr. Chips" (MGM), and "No Minor Vices" (MGM).

PARAMOUNT

"I Cheated The Law" (20th-Fox), with Tom Conway and Steve Brody.

MAYFAIR

"The Search" (MGM), and "Tuscon" (20th-Fox).

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"John Loves Mary" (WB), with Ronald Reagan and Patricia Neal.

GAIETY

"Caught" (MGM), with James Mason and Barbara Bel Geddes.

MET

"Flamingo Road" (WB), with Joan Crawford and Zachary Scott.

ODEON

"The Blue Lagoon" (EL), with Donald Huston and Jean Simmons.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"It Happens Every Spring" (20th-Fox), with Ray Milland and Jean Peters.

GRAND

"Red Canyon" (Univ.), Tech., with Ann Blyth and George Brent.

PALACE

"Whiplash" (WB), with Dane Clark and Alexis Smith.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"Flamingo Road" (WB), with Joan Crawford and David Brian.

ORPHEUM

"The Younger Brothers" (WB), with Wayne Morris and Janis Paige.

PLAZA

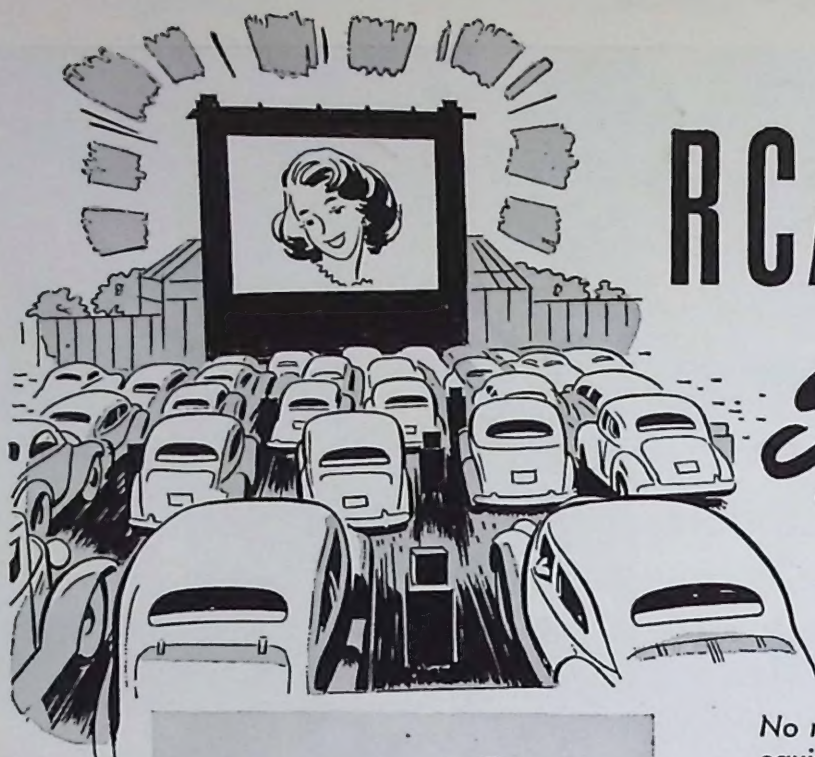
"Miranda" (EL), with Griffith Jones and Glynis Johns.

STRAND

"Shockproof" (Col.), with Cornel Wilde and Patricia Knight.

VOGUE

"The Blue Lagoon" (EL), with Jean Simmons and Donald Huston.



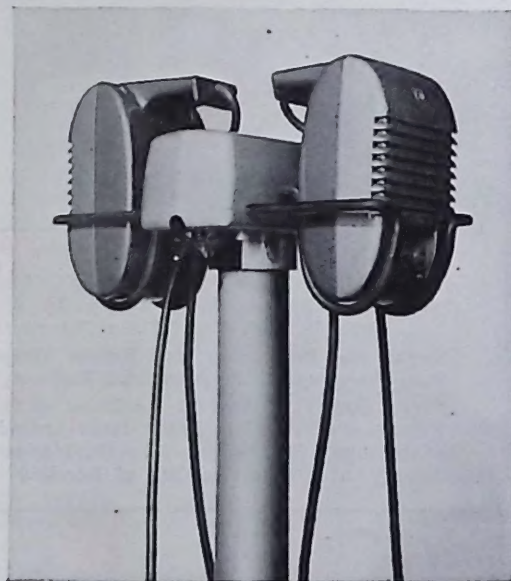
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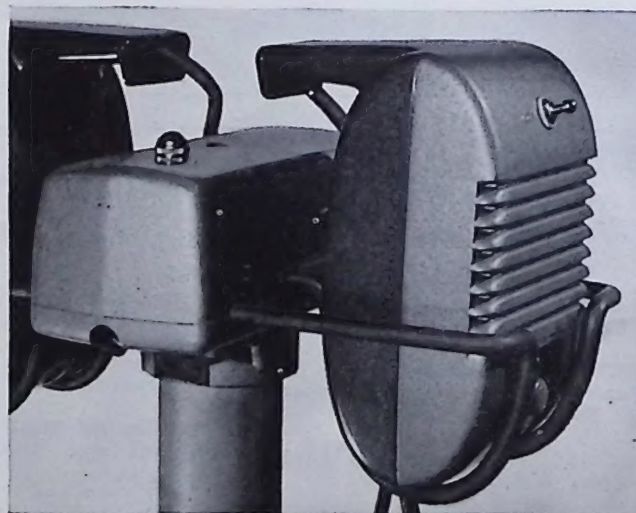
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